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February 1, 2021

**VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION**

<https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/request>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 6  
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500  
Dallas, TX 75270

**Re: Fee Waiver Request**

To whom it may concern:

Lone Star Legal Aid is writing to you on behalf of the Barrett Economic and Community Development Organization (BECDO) regarding two Superfund Sites near Barrett, Texas: (1) the French Limited Trust Group, Inc. Superfund Site (French Limited), and (2) the Sikes Disposal Pits Superfund Site (Sikes), both of which are located in Crosby, Texas. We have been corresponding with a remedial project manager, Raji Josiam with United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA Region 6), who suggested we make Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for documents pertaining to these Superfund sites. This letter serves as our formal request for a fee waiver regarding any expenses associated with gathering the requested documents. Below is our explanation of how we satisfy each of the 6 factors required to receive a fee waiver.

**Factor 1: Our request concerns learning more about federal government activities.**

- This request is made on behalf of Barrett Economic Community Development Organization and concerns two neighboring Superfund sites under the U.S. EPA's supervision: French Limited Superfund Site and Sikes Disposal Pits. The documents requested are related to the federal government's: remediation tracking, site status, monitoring, funding of associated projects, consent decree amendments and underlying data, chosen mitigation strategies for site contamination, and various other data related to these Superfund sites. Inherently, the monitoring of Superfund Sites is a federally

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regulated activity, and, by receiving the requested documents, the community will learn more about the operations or activities of the federal government.

**Factor 2: The information that we are requesting is likely to contribute to an understanding of government operations or activities.**

- Getting data on the French Limited Superfund site and Sikes Disposal Pits site will directly contribute to the community's understanding of the U.S. EPA's role in monitoring their neighboring Superfund sites. The information that the Community is seeking is beyond what information is available on the U.S. EPA's French Limited/Sikes Disposal Pits public website(s). BECDO, through the undersigned counsel, have been contacting the U.S. EPA on behalf of the community, and the EPA Remedial Project Manager, Raji Josiam, directed us to make this FOIA request for additional documents that we are seeking. These documents will help the Barrett community better understand what kind of clean-up progress and monitoring activities have been completed and need to be completed at the site, as well as funding information, and other site information, that cannot be accessed without completing a FOIA request.

**Factor 3: The disclosure of the requested information will contribute to the public's understanding.**

- Barrett Economic Community Development Organization (BECDO) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for citizens in Barrett. The information sought in this request will contribute to public's understanding because BECDO plans to use this data to host a community meeting to educate the communities in Barrett, TX and Crosby, TX by giving an update on the two neighboring Superfund sites: French Limited Superfund site & Sikes Disposal Superfund site. This information is not sought by an individual or to further individual interests. Rather, the information is sought to educate a larger community on the status of their neighboring superfund sites.

**Factor 4: The disclosure of the requested information will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of government operations.**

- The public's understanding of the two Superfund sites adjacent to the Barrett and Crosby communities will be significantly enhanced if these communities can be provided with the requested information. The requested information pertains to the Consent Decree implementation and amendment process as well as monitoring, remediation, and progress reports regarding site contamination. This information will better help the community research potential safe uses/developments for these two sites, and will better inform the community's decision-making regarding these potential redevelopments, and give the community important information about these neighboring Superfund sites.

**Factor 5: The requestor does NOT have a commercial interest that will be furthered by the requested disclosure.**

- BECDO is a non-profit organization dedicated to community education, and the organization has no commercial interest that will be furthered by the requested disclosure. BECDO seeks information about their neighboring Superfund sites to learn about the sites, host public meetings to give the community at-large information on these adjacent sites, learn about efforts by the EPA to mitigate contamination, and to learn about the government's progress on amending the consent decree that has been under amendment since 2014.

**Factor 6: The requestor's primary interest in disclosure is educational.**

- The public interest in disclosure outweighs any commercial interest because here there is no commercial motivation in learning about the Superfund sites. The community is interested in human health and the environment and any impacts from the neighboring Superfund sites.

We appreciate your consideration of our request for a fee waiver. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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